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7 City Council Members Seek Study of Rosenberg Spy Case

Seven members of the New York City Council have asked the House Judiciary Committee to make a study and report on the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, electrocuted in 1953 on a conviction of atomic espionage conspiracy.

Their letter asserted, "The Supreme Court has since reversed a number of cases based upon the same due process violations which victimized the Rosenbergs." It was made public yesterday by the National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case.

A spokesman for Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, the House panel's chairman, said it had nothing pending on the case, but would consider the letter when it was received. The letter was signed by Miriam Friedlander, Ruth Messinger, Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, Mary Pinkett, Robert Steingut, Arthur J. Katzman and Wendell Foster.

At the same time, Aaron Katz, national chairman of the pro-Rosenberg group, assailed last week's report that the breaking of Soviet spy codes by the United States had led to knowledge of the Rosenbergs' guilt. He said such a contention was first reported in March 1980 by David C. Martin, a Newsweek magazine correspondent, who then said that the Soviet Union had learned about the code-breaking and modified its code in 1948. The Rosenbergs were not arrested until 1950.